

September 15, 2009

## STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCHELL, JR.

Delivered before the House of Representatives

Last week when the President addressed the nation from this very Chamber, my Republican colleagues made a big show of waving their plans for health reform. Unfortunately, the plans that have been bandied about by my Republican colleagues lack any commitment to guaranteeing affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

The truth about the Republican plans is that they will dismantle and disrupt the health insurance system in this country as we know it. The provisions espoused by the Republicans would unravel the employer-based system where 159 million Americans get their health coverage today.

The Republican plans would leave individuals out in the individual insurance market to fend for themselves against the cherry-picking, discrimination, and dishonesty of the health insurance industry.

I support America's Affordable Health Choices Act because it achieves what the Republican plans do not – it creates a rational marketplace where Americans can find transparent information about their insurance options (not unlike that proposed by Republicans 6 years ago for the Medicare prescription drug benefit); guaranteed coverage that won't discriminate based on health, gender, or your job; and meaningful coverage that won't leave families laden with debt when they need help the most.

Let's put aside the rhetoric and the political posturing to pass MEANINGFUL reform that provides stability and security for hard-working Americans.

Thank you, Speaker.